[*Translation*]

Tourist spots at mountains and sea beaches

6377. SHRI KANSHIRAM RANA:
SHRI A. CHARLES:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give financial assistance to set up tourist resorts at hilly areas, on sea shores and at places of pilgrimage including the Kovalam Beach;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). With a view to encourage development of tourism infrastructure it is proposed to grant income tax concessions and relief from Expenditure Tax in respect of new hotels in a hilly area or a rural area or a place of pilgrimage or such other places as the Central Government may specify. There so also a scheme for providing interest subsidy on loans sanctioned by certain financial institutions for approved hotel projects.

[*English*]

Export Industry Status to Tourism

6378. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to grant Export Industry Status to tourism industry;

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the proposal and to give incentives to tourism industry that are admissible to export industry; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). The view taken on the recommendation of the National Committee on Tourism in this regard was that the incentive available to export oriented industries are mostly being made available to tourism industry.

Concealment of Gold in Air India Aircraft

6379. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether gold worth Rs. 40 lakhs concealed in the cavities of the wall panels of Bombay bound Air India flight from Tokyo was recently detected at the Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). One person has been arrested and a show cause notice has been issued to him on 26.7.91 No Air India employee is involved in this case.